

8/15/69

Dear Dick,

I've a few moments before taking Lil grocery shopping, so I use them for a thought that came to me last night.

Frazier testified to the ejection pattern, as I recall (but not the citation) is an effort to credit the dispersion pattern of the shells as they were allegedly found. I do not recall the exact testimony, but it is to the effect that the shells would have ricocheted off the stacked boxes and the places in which the hulls were found are consistent with his study of the ejection pattern.

The thoughts that occurred to me are these:

In order to produce the dents as we did, and for the rifle to have been pointed downward for the shooting, would not those hulls have been ejected on a plane with the barrel of the rifle, meaning at a rather steep upward angle?

If this is the case, how could they have struck any boxes? How would they have avoided soaring over them?

My recollection could be faulty, but it seems to me he also testified to the shells ejecting away from the rifle, not backward, as though they did not strike the side on ejection.

If any one of these things is correct, the manner in which the dents were made is yet to be explained in terms of their possible use in the murder. In other words, we did establish how the dents could have been made, but for them to have been made this way, we also have to establish that they would fit Frazier's testimony on ejection. Otherwise, we have not proved at all that the rifle could have been used and the converse is true also, that if this does not fit his testimony, his testimony proven the rifle was not used in the assassination and the testimony on ejection was contrived as part of a fixerup.

I've finished the draft of the addition to COUP. It is long. I've just started to read and correct it so Lil can start typing it, and I'll let other things go except for odd moments, broken times. I've not finished reading Frazier's New Orleans testimony, which John did send me (poor Thermofax, and I do not know how well it will copy), and I've not had time to find a pair of pliers stout enough for me to cut a coat-hanger and make a cleaning rod for the tests you want. If you get in a hurry, let me know and I'll do pronto.

John has said nothing of the other transcripts. Gary has selections from Finck. I've just sent them to Paul, for copying.

Best,

Harold Weisberg